

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/066 W

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P R 070900Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 320
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, KS, US
SUBJECT: BLUE HOUSE BUGGING: PRESS COVERAGE

REF: SEOUL 2768 (DTG 060835Z APR 78)

1. SUMMARY: 4/7 MORNING PRESS FRONTPAGES 4/6 MEETING OF
FORMIN/AMB SNEIDER STRESSING (1) AMB SNEIDER GAVE OFFICIAL
USG REPLY THAT U.S. HAD NOT BUGGED BLUE HOUSE, AND (2) 8/77 DENIAL
BY CIA DIR TURNER IS STILL VALID AND IS THE BASIC POSITION OF
USG. END SUMMARY.

2. SEOUL HAPTONG RELEASE OF 4/6 SAYS THE ISSUE "APPEARS
SETTLED", RELEASE CONCLUDES, "PAK SSANG-YONG, DIRECTOR OF
THE MINISTRY'S AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU SAID THE KOREAN
GOVERNMENT WILL ACCEPT THE CLARIFICATION AS WASHINGTON'S
FORMAL REPLY, INDICATING THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES
HAS BEEN SETTLED."

3. CHOSUN ILBO OFFERS MOST EXTENSIVE COVERAGE, QUOTING
"MOFA OFFICIALS" AS FOLLOWS: "AMB SNEIDER MADE IT CLEAR
THAT HIS EXPLANATION WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS OF USG; AMB
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SNEIDER HAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE REMARKS OF CIA DIR TURNER
LAST YEAR ARE THE MOST COMPLETE AND AUTHORITATIVE EXPLANA-
TION OF THE USG POSITION." CI NOTES MOFA SOURCES FOLLOWING
MEETING "ASSUMED SURPRISINGLY LOW PROFILE" WHICH "CREATED
SPECULATION THAT FOR THE TIME BEING, THE KOREAN SIDE IS
SATISFIED WITH AMB SNEIDER'S MOST COMPLETE AND AUTHORITATIVE
EXPLANATION OF USG POSITION."

4. CI QUOTES QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS BETWEEN MOFA OFFICIALS
AND REPORTERS AFTER MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

Q: WHY HAVE YOU CALLED IN THE AMBASSADOR AGAIN?

A: SINCE IT IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT ISSUE, WE HAVE AGAIN
ASKED FOR THE AMB'S EXPLANATION.

Q: CAN THE REPLY OF USG BE CONSIDERED AS A PUBLIC REPLY?

A: YES, IT CAN BE IF IT IS SO REVEALED BY THE U.S. SIDE.
AMB SNEIDER PROMISED THAT HE WILL REPEAT TO REPORTERS,
IF THEY ASK, THE SAME CONTENTS AS REVEALED BY THE
KOREAN SIDE TODAY. (NOTE: IN FACT, WE AGREED TO CONFIRM AS PER
INSTRUCTION.) AMB SNEIDER MEANT THAT THE REMARKS OF CIA DIR
TURNER WERE THE MOST COMPLETE AND AUTHORITATIVE EXPLANATION OF
THE USG.

Q: IF SO, IS THIS TO MEAN THE U.S. HAS NEVER INSTALLED
EAVESDROPPING DEVICES IN THE PAST?

A: TO SAY IN ENGLISH "THERE HAS NEVER BEEN" COVERS
EVERYTHING.BESIDES, PORTER HIMSELF DID NOT SEE
WITH HIS OWN EYES -- HE HAD HEARD -- AND IT IS
DOUBTFUL ALSO IF PORTER'S REMARKS WERE ACCURATELY
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SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION
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Draft Date: 07 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: BLUE HOUSE BUGGING: PRESS COVERAGE
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, PINT, KS, US
To: STATE
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